Minutes: Early ACCESS Executive Committee

Meeting purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- filter information and prepare for the Council
- set framework and agenda for Council
- identify and make recommendations for the appropriate utilization of state resources
- consider action on the recommendations of the Council
- set priorities for development of the Early ACCESS system
- implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement
- transact all regular business of the Council between meetings

Date, time, and place

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Time: 2:00-4:30pm

Place: Jesse Parker Building, Starkweather Conference Room

Attendees

Present: Jane Borst, Kelly Hancock, Mary Nelson, LauraBelle Sherman-

Proehl, Carrie Sodders, Mary Stevens, Debra Waldron

Staff: Julie Curry, Jim Donoghue, Barb Khal, Marion Kresse, **Excused**: Ron Koch, Troy McCarthy, Kelly Schulte, Susan White

Approval of previous minutes

Kelly Hancock convened the meeting at 2:05pm. A quorum was established and the January 14, 2009 minutes of the Executive Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
EA Eligibility Document	Barb Khal, Debra Waldron
Medicaid Work Group	Jim Donoghue
Informal System Concern Report	Julie Curry
Memorandum of Agreement	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Debrief Service Coordination Panel	Kelly Hancock
Plan for next Executive and ICEA	Kelly Hancock
Meeting	
Part C Budget for FFY 09	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl

EA eligibility document

Barb Khal and Debra Waldron facilitated a conversation about possible revision of the terminology regarding "fetal drug or alcohol exposure" in the Early ACCESS Eligibility Determination Procedures document. Committee members discussed the pros and cons of dropping the word "fetal" and expansion of eligibility to include "toxic substance exposure".

Members expressed support for the idea of wanting to identify all children adversely affected by a wide range of chemicals and toxins. It was suggested that it might be helpful to make a distinction between prenatal and post natal exposure, with both being eligible for services.

The negative side of expanding the definition would be to make it so broad as to include children who have had some exposure but no adverse effect. The determination of adverse effect would require the professional opinion of someone acting within their scope-of-practice.

It was recommended that the Child Health Specialty Clinic draft language adding drugs, alcohol, heavy metals, radiation, maternal condition, intrauterine infections, and other toxic substances to the Early ACCESS eligibility definition.

Action: Revising the eligibility document was tabled until the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Medicaid work group

Jim Donoghue informed the Executive Committee that a federal executive order placing a hold on new administrative rules means that the requirement for a single case manager will not go into effect as soon as had been anticipated. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise has withdrawn this requirement from revisions it was making to state Medicaid plan.

Because other changes affecting Medicaid funding will still be implemented the Lead Agency is moving forward with plans to form a Medicaid workgroup.

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Medicaid work group (continued)

Jim outlined the following goals for the work group:

- 1. Review the Medicaid changes and the Medicaid Compliance Agreement.
- 2. Identify the implications of Medicaid changes for Early ACCESS.
- 3. Recommend any needed changes in Early ACCESS system to the Executive Committee.

Jim provided an initial list of potential work group members to the Executive Committee. He asked that members contact him with any names that should be added. It was suggested that a parent who has experience with Medicaid Waiver services be added.

Informal system concern report

Julie Curry presented a quarterly report of informal system concerns that have been received since November, 2008. One concern regarding a child in foster care was discussed. While this case was quickly resolved, the larger issue of clarifying the rights of foster care parents under Part C still needs to be resolved.

Memorandum of agreement

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl reviewed the current goals and outcomes submitted by the Signatory Agencies. She pointed out that while there are four separate documents they will be combined into one five-year plan so that related activities are coordinate across all agencies. It was also pointed out that while the first year is intended to be a planning year some of the activities are already being implemented.

Members asked about how diversity was being defined in one of the goals. It was noted that while we often think only in racial terms, people in poverty and individuals with a disability face many of the same challenges. One member shared the screening tools and workforce diversity should also be considered.

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Debrief on service coordination panel from past ICEA meetings Kelly Hancock facilitated a discussion on the Service Coordination panel. She asked for feedback from the Executive Committee members regarding the information gathered from the past panels and if there was additional information still needed. This information will help future planning. A panel of service coordinators who work with children with high lead levels was suggested. IDPH agreed to organize a panel of service coordinators from county public health offices.

The Committee members generated a list of potential issues to explore based on the service coordination panels:

- 1. Promote the collaborative efforts seen in different parts of the state.
- 2. Learn more about service coordination based on NICUs.
- 3. Share learning with Regional Liaisons.
- 4. Where is DHS on providing Early ACCESS service coordination?
- 5. Determine where there are gaps in capacity, resources and service delivery.
- 6. Are there differences in comprehensive assessments?
- 7. Would a rating system help balance workloads (we need caseload data)?
- 8. Obtain qualitative data on how parents perceive EA services and if our services match their priorities.

Pan for next Executive Committee meeting The topics and discussion leaders for the April 1, 2009, ICEA Executive Committee meeting were discussed and revised as follows:

Topic	Discussion Leader
Medicaid Rule Change Update	Jim Donoghue
Early ACCESS Eligibility Guidance	Debra Waldron
Membership Slate	Ron Koch
Quality Service Review Update	Barb Khal
Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) System	Julie Curry, Jane Borst, Carrie
Framework	Sodders, Tom Rendon

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Review agenda for ICEA meeting The table below indicates the topic and discussion leader for the March 6, 2009, ICEA meeting.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Family Story	Jodi Angus
Lead Agency & Signatory Updates	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Executive Committee Update	Kelly Hancock
Medicaid Update: Implications on	Jim Donoghue
system and plan	
Memorandum of Agreement	LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Targeted Case Management	Kelly Hancock, Parent
	Gaye Johnson, ChildServe
	Supervisor
	ChildServe Case Manager
Service Coordination Panel: CHSC	Barb Khal, Facilitator
Legislative Session	Senator Daryl Beall
ICEA Committee Reports	Chairs of Committees
Sharing Activities	Council Members

Part C budget for FFY 09

LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl distributed a copy of the proposed Part C budget and gave an overview of key items. The budget will be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, but it may need to be revised due to Iowa's slower population growth relative to other states.

Adjournment/ next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm. The next meeting will be held April 1, 2009.